MARVEL LEGACY

THE NEGATIVE ZONE WAR

17

X-MEN GOLD

GUGGENHEIM
LASHLEY
FERNANDEZ

X-MEN GOLD

GENETICALLY GIFTED WITH UNCANNY ABILITIES, MUTANTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE NEXT STAGE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION. WHILE THE WORLD HATES AND FEARS THEM, KITTY PRYDE HAS REFORMED THE TEAM OF MUTANT HEROES KNOWN AS THE X-MEN TO USE THEIR POWERS FOR GOOD AND SPREAD A POSITIVE IMAGE OF MUTANTKIND.

PREVIOUSLY IN *X-MEN GOLD...*

JUST AS THE X-MEN WERE ENJOYING SOME DOWNTIME, A MYSTERIOUS SPACECRAFT CAME THROUGH A PORTAL OVER CENTRAL PARK. WHEN THE SHIP PROVED TO BE HOSTILE, THE X-MEN ENGAGED. KITTY AND NIGHTCRAWLER INFILTRATED THE SHIP ONLY TO BE CAPTURED, WHILE PRESTIGE WAS GRAVELY INJURED BY A LASER BLAST.

UNBEKNOWNST TO THEM, THE SHIP ARRIVED TO RECLAIM KOLOGOTH, THE UNINTELLIGIBLE ALIEN THE X-MEN HAD CAPTURED ON AN EARLIER MISSION. AFTER REUNITING KOLOGOTH WITH HIS PEOPLE, THE SHIP WARPED AWAY, TAKING KITTY AND NIGHTCRAWLER WITH IT...

THE NEGATIVE ZONE WAR

PART 2

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KITTY PRYDE

STORM
ORORO MUNROE

NIGHTCRAWLER
KURT WAGNER

COLOSSUS
PIOTR RASPUTIN

PRESTIGE
RACHEL GREY

OLD MAN LOGAN

THE TRISKELION.

TOLD MYSELF I'D NEVER WEAR ANOTHER #&%*$! COSTUME...

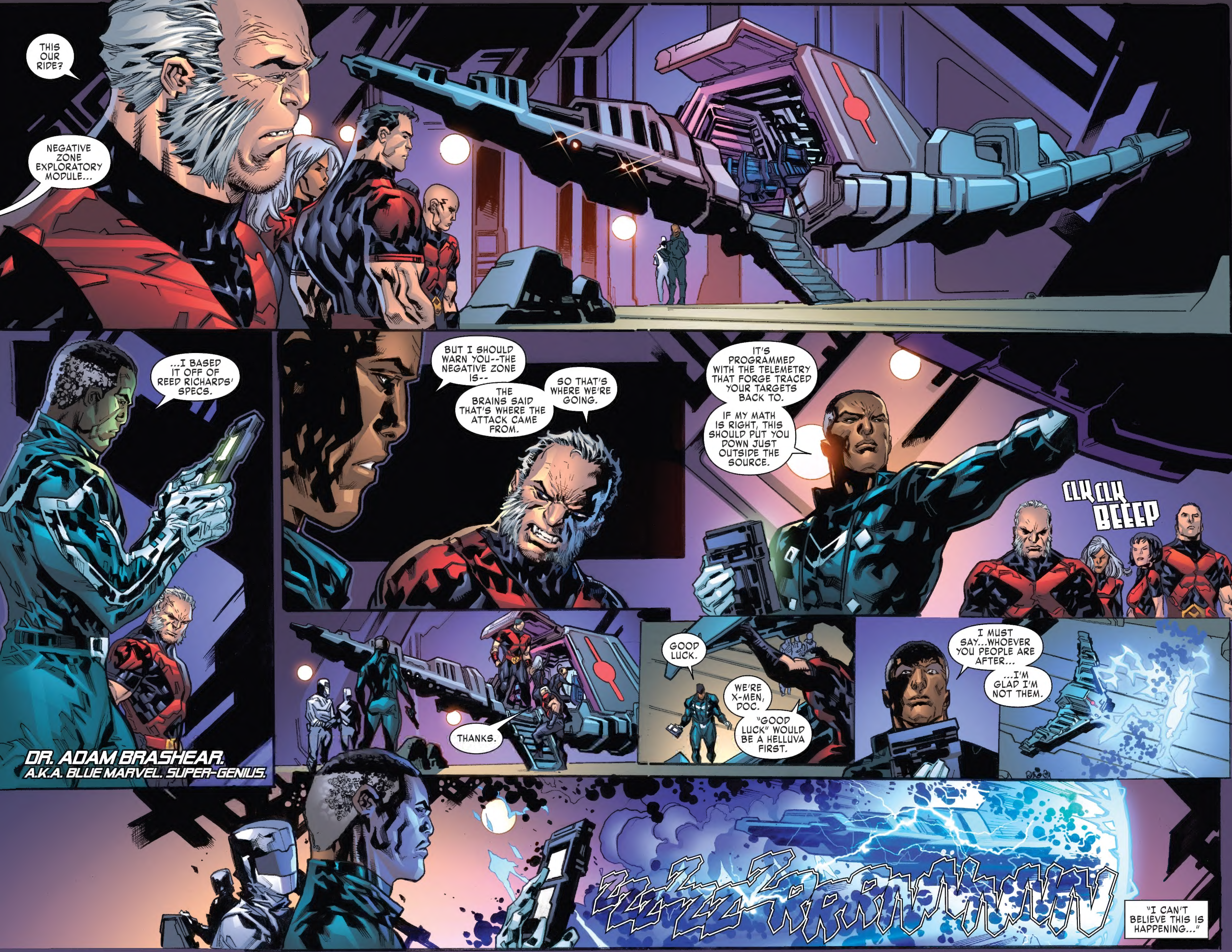
IT'S A FORGE-DESIGNED TACTICAL FIELD OUTFIT FOR THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

COSTUME.

THE SUITS HAVE UNIVERSAL TRANSLATORS. THEY MIGHT BE USEFUL, LOGAN.

THAT'D BE NICE, ORORO, BUT THESE ALIENS SPEAK A DIALECT THE TRANSLATOR CAN'T PROCESS.

ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME, INK.


THIS OUR RIDE?
NEGATIVE ZONE EXPLORATORY MODULE...
...I BASED IT OFF OF REED RICHARDS' SPECS.
DR. ADAM BRASHEAR.
A.K.A. BLUE MARVEL. SUPER-GENIUS.
BUT I SHOULD WARN YOU--THE NEGATIVE ZONE IS--
THE BRAINS SAID THAT'S WHERE THE ATTACK CAME FROM.
SO THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING.
IT'S PROGRAMMED WITH THE TELEMETRY THAT FORGE TRACED YOUR TARGETS BACK TO.
IF MY MATH IS RIGHT, THIS SHOULD PUT YOU DOWN JUST OUTSIDE THE SOURCE.
CLK CLK
BEEEP
THANKS.
GOOD LUCK.
WE'RE X-MEN, DOC.
"GOOD LUCK" WOULD BE A HELLUVA FIRST.
I MUST SAY...WHOEVER YOU PEOPLE ARE AFTER...
...I'M GLAD I'M NOT THEM.
"I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING..."

IT WASN'T EVEN A MONTH AGO THAT SHE WAS LYING IN THIS SAME BED.

YOU NURSED HER BACK TO HEALTH THEN, DR. REYES. YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN.

WRONG ON BOTH COUNTS, AMARA.

XAVIER INSTITUTE
FOR MUTANT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

BEFORE, IT WAS RACHEL'S MIND THAT WAS HURT. *SHE* PULLED HERSELF OUT OF IT.

THIS TIME, IT'S HER *BODY* THAT'S BROKEN.

PERHAPS BEYOND MY ABILITY TO HEAL.

THE PLANET DARTAYUS.
IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

SHE LIVES...

CREEPY NEW GUY.

YOU PICKED UP SOME ENGLISH.

I OBSERVED MUCH, PRYDE.

...

INCLUDING YOUR *NAME*, YES.

THE MASKED ONE DEPLOYED TECHNOLOGY LIKE THIS AGAINST YOU. TO KEEP YOU FROM PHANTASMING.

PHASING, CREEPWAD.

IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO TAKE PRISONERS. YOU AND YOUR FRIEND WERE VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCE.

SWELL. THEN LET US GO.

HOW LONG DID YOU INTEND TO KEEP *ME* YOUR PRISONER?

WE TRIED COMMUNICATING WITH YOU--

YOU WOULD HAVE LEFT ME TO ROT IN THAT GLASS CAGE.

I OWE YOU AND YOUR FRIEND THE SAME HOSPITALITY.

KURT. WHERE IS HE?

TWENTY METERS BELOW.

A SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE PRISON.

NO OPENINGS. NO DOORS OR WINDOWS.

NOTHING TO GIVE ME A GLIMPSE OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

IF I TELEPORT, I DO SO *BLINDLY.*

AND RISK RE-MATERIALIZING INSIDE SOLID MATTER.

DOCTOR DOOM HELD ME CAPTIVE IN THIS MANNER ONCE.

ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE NEARLY KILLED ME.

DARE I TEMPT FATE AGAIN?

RUUMMMMBLE

ROUGH RIDE. YOU'RE NOT GONNA ASK US HOW WE'RE DOING, BOSS?

YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW HIM ALL THAT WELL, DO YOU?

IF I CARED HOW COMFY YOU WERE, KID, I WOULDN'T'VE ASKED YOU TO COME ALONG.

IF I'M READING THIS RIGHT, WE SHOULD MAKE PLANETFALL IN FIVE, FOUR...

KATHOOOM

APPARENTLY, I WASN'T READING IT RIGHT.

CRACK THE HATCH.

DR. BRASHEAR SAID HE ARRANGED TO HAVE US LAND OUTSIDE THE SOURCE...

...I THINK HIS MATH WAS OFF JUST A TAD.

SKITTISH BUNCH.

I GUESS WE SCARED THEM OFF.

ACTUALLY...

...I THINK *THEY* DID.

YEAH, I GET THE FEELING THIS IS SOMEPLACE WE DON'T WANNA BE.

KACHOOM

KARAKATHOOM

KAROOM

BACK TO THE SHIP!

INK, 'RO, FLY US THE HELL OUTTA--

CHOOM

LOGAN!

CHOOM

CHOOM

CHOOM

GET ME UP THERE.

DONE.

OKAY, SO I'LL JUST, Y'KNOW, WAIT HERE, I GUESS...

WE TAKING SIDES HERE OR WHAT?

NYET.

WE ARE DEFENDING OURSELVES.

HOLD!

CEASE. WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU.

YOU SPEAK... ENGLISH?

I HAVE COMMAND OF 862 TONGUES.

YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A COMBAT ZONE.

REALLY? WE HONESTLY HADN'T NOTICED.

LET US ROUT THIS RABBLE...

"...AND THEN WE WILL CAUCUS."

PARLIAMENT.
THE SEAT OF POWER ON DARTAYUS.

HE IS KOLOGOTH.

A BASE CRIMINAL GROWN TO WOULD-BE DICTATOR.

WE RESISTED. AND CAST HIM OUT.

TO EARTH. THANKS A WHOLE HELLUVA LOT.

HIS FORCES WAGED WAR IN HIS ABSENCE AND IN HIS NAME.

OUR WORLD TEETERS ON THE BRINK.

GUESS IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY, THEN.

AND PROBABLY TAKE CARE OF YOUR LITTLE KOLOGOTH PROBLEM IN THE PROCESS.

SUCKER'S GOT OUR FRIENDS. WE AIM TO GET 'EM BACK.

DAMN RIGHT.

SUCH BRAVADO IS REASSURING, BUT KOLOGOTH HAS GONE TO GROUND.

HE STRIKES FROM SECRET, WE KNOW NOT WHERE.

LOGAN... A WORD?

GIVE US THE ROOM, BUB?

HOW WOULD I DO THAT?

IF YOU COULD GIVE US SOME PRIVACY TO CONFER.

AS YOU WISH.

LOGAN--

HANG ON A SEC, 'RO. WALLS GOT EARS.

THIS PLANET IS IN THE MIDST OF CIVIL WAR. WE CAN'T TAKE SIDES MERELY BASED ON WHOM WE'VE MET FIRST.

INK, CAN YOU PSI-LINK US?

DONE.

I AIN'T LOOKING TO TAKE SIDES. I JUST WANNA GET OUR PEOPLE BACK.

WHAT ABOUT PSI-SCANNING THIS GENERAL OR WHATEVER HE IS? TO CONFIRM HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH?

SORRY, BUT THAT'S OUTTA MY LEAGUE. MY PSI-POWERS ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY LOW-LEVEL.

LOGAN'S RIGHT-- WE'RE NOT HERE TO GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS, ONLY TO RESCUE KATYA AND KURT.

WHICH LEAVES US WITH JUST ONE QUESTION...

"...WHERE'S THIS KOLOGOTH HIDING OUT?"

TEMPLE OF SCYTHIAN.

OUR FORCES ENGAGED THE ENEMY IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT THIS AFTERNOON.

WITH WHAT OUTCOME?

DEFEAT.

THEY'VE ALREADY KILLED THEMSELVES IN PENANCE.

THE EARTHERS WERE THERE.

THEY'VE COME FOR THEIR FRIENDS.

INCONVENIENT.

AGREED. THEIR ABILITIES ARE FORMIDABLE. THEY COULD SWAY THE BALANCE.

WE CAN RISK *NOTHING* AT THIS STAGE.

YES, MY LIEGE.

MAKE CONTACT WITH THE EARTHERS.

TELL THEM, WE WILL GLADLY RETURN THEIR COMRADES.

YOU'RE CERTAIN?

AS YOU SAID, THEY ARE AN UNSTABLE ELEMENT IN THIS EQUATION...

...AND WE MUST CHANCE NOTHING THAT WILL STOP **HIS** RISE.

NOT WAITING TO BE TORTURED OR KILLED OR STARVED TO DEATH OR WHATEVER OTHER FATE THEY HAVE PLANNED FOR ME.

MY CHOOSING.

CLANG

BAM!

AAGGGHH!

TO BE CONTINUED!

X-MEN

MARC **GUGGENHEIM** WRITER
CHRIS **ROBINSON** ASSISTANT EDITOR
MARK **PANICCIA** X-MEN GROUP EDITOR

THE GOLD STANDARD

Hey gang!

Welcome to X-MEN GOLD #17. This issue marks the second of our five-part arc, "The Negative Zone War," and the illustrious return of cunning Ken Lashley, who will be joining us for next issue as well. How do you like those new field uniforms he designed?

Let's read some letters...

X-MEN GOLD is an inspirational book but with some classy X as well. So, basically, it's the X-Men book we have always wanted. Thank you so much for this greatness!

-Dakota Morgan

Thank you, Dakota! And let me say that I LOVE your name. It sounds like it belongs in a comic book. And not just on the letters page...

Let me start by saying…the X-Men are back!

My first introduction to super heroes and the world of Marvel came with the very first X-Men movie. I loved it more than anything, but, being a girl, I believed it was weird for me to like comics. I was a closet super hero geek for years until finally, one day, I decided that I didn't give a Brood's backside what anyone else thought. And so, with the magic of Marvel Unlimited, I dove into comics starting with the very first issue of UNCANNY X-MEN in the 1960s. I have literally read every X-Men book from that first issue, including all the spin-offs and side stories. I feel like I know these characters and have grown up with them. I am VERY passionate about my X-Men and although the last few years have been tough, I never gave up faith that Marvel and its amazing writers and artists would one day turn it around for my favorite mutants. I cannot tell you how happy I am to see the new run of X-Books. Finally! I am in love and hopeful again for these characters that resonated so deeply with me. I want to say thank you to the whole X-MEN GOLD team.

I also want to say something about my favorite character in all of Marvel-dom, Jean Grey. Being the only female for many years on the team, I connected with her on a deep level. She started as a somewhat timid girl often overshadowed by the boys, always unsure of herself. But Jean passionately fought for what was right, and after making the ultimate sacrifice in giving her life to save her friends, she emerged from death in glorious splendor as the Phoenix. She has been a bright, beautiful example of a woman's strength, kindness and spirit. Faced with ultimate power time and again, it was the goodness of her heart that won out, conquering darkness. I'd like to think that there's a little Jean Grey in every woman, a brilliant, powerful beauty that burns just beneath the surface. I know that characters dying is part of every story, and comic books have often been criticized for "the revolving door of death", but I'd like to say that comics have it right in many ways. Death is permanent in the real world, it is devastating, inevitable and utterly complete. There is nothing so final in our world as death. We see it literally everywhere, from the anguish of losing a family member to the senseless violence reported on TV. We turn to stories, to comics, to escape the heavy burden of reality. To say that having a character return lessens the impact of the story is, in my opinion, incorrect. Death hurts, even when reading about a fictional character, no matter if it lasts for a day or years. Death still affects us, it's part of being human. It's also one of the reasons I love comics so much. When someone we love dies, there is no hope that they will return; but in comics, that finality doesn't exist. We always have hope, and that's something the world needs more of. So I guess what I'm trying to say is, Jean Grey always rose from the ashes. It's time for her (the adult version, so beautiful and strong, wearing her scars proudly) to live up to her namesake and rise as the Phoenix, a symbol that death cannot touch.

Anyway, thanks for reading all of this. I'm also attaching a few photos of my Phoenix cosplay. I just recently attended my second Comic-Con as a proud Marvel fangirl and plan to go every year now!

Thank you again, X-MEN GOLD team!

P.S. I don't know how your cosplay ends up as a Cosplay Cover, but…*hint, hint, nudge, nudge*

~Sarah

Thank you, Sarah! These are awesome! I love the three different looks. (And your photographer's not too shoddy, either.)

And I couldn't agree with your assessment of Jean more. I started reading X-MEN shortly after her death and I always appreciated how large a shadow she cast on the narrative, even before her (first) resurrection. And you're absolutely right that if someone is going to return from the dead, it should be a character which claims the Phoenix as her namesake. I hope you dig PHOENIX RESURRECTION. Matthew Rosenberg is crushing it and it sounds like this is the book for you (in addition to X-MEN GOLD, of course).

Yesterday, I delivered to Mark and Chris a detailed outline for the next seventeen issues of GOLD. It feels weird to say that in issue #17, but there we are. And I couldn't be more excited about the stuff we have planned for you guys. The second seventeen are going to blow away the first seventeen, that's for sure.

See you all in two weeks. In the meantime, be good to each other.

Best,
Marc Guggenheim

Burbank, California

SEND LETTERS TO OFFICEX@MARVEL.COM. MARK YOUR MAIL, "OKAY TO PRINT!"

HOUSE OF X

In the HOUSE OF X, we're getting ready for something really special, RESURRXION PHASE II. That's right, we'll be cycling in some new ongoings and a few special limited series.

While I can't talk about all of what's in the cooker, I can tell you that lovers of the classic on-again, off-again romance between Rogue and Gambit have a special treat in store with a ROGUE & GAMBIT five-issue limited series coming out in January. It's by KELLY (HAWKEYE, A-FORCE) THOMPSON and PERE (DEADPOOL VS. PUNISHER) PÉREZ, and the two are bringing a smart, sassy and seductive flavor to this dysfunctional duo.

Then there's LEGION, another five-issue limited series by PETER (X-FORCE, X-STATIX) MILLIGAN and WILFREDO (MOON KNIGHT, SECRET EMPIRE: BRAVE NEW WORLD) TORRES. Peter brings his own brand of brilliant insanity while Wilfredo's keen sense of body language and expression adds to the inherent eccentricity of the character and the story. I highly recommend both of these books.

Now for teasing upcoming projects, I can say that there are at least two new ongoing series in development. One completely unexpected and the other a return of a fan favorite. It's too early to get into any more than that, but I'm sure most X-Fans will be excited when we make the announcements. Keep your eyes and ears open!

Now onto our checklist of the wonderful world of X:

X-MEN GOLD:

By Marc Guggenheim and Marc Laming. Kitty Pryde takes charge and leads a new team into a heroic age!
Issue #17!

X-MEN BLUE:

By Cullen Bunn and Jorge Molina. The time-displaced original five join their greatest enemy, Magneto. Evil mutants, you're toast!
Issue #17!

WEAPON X:

By Greg Pak, Marc Borstel and Ibraim Roberson. The Weapon X program is back, but this time they are building weapons of mutant destruction. Old Man Logan, Sabretooth and a team of stealthy killers take the bloody battle back to them.
Issue #12!

ALL-NEW WOLVERINE:

By Tom Taylor and Juann Cabal. A virus from another world threatens to wipe out mankind. Kicking off an epic tale that will take Laura Kinney to the stars.
Issue #28!

GENERATION X:

By Christina Strain and Eric Koda. Jubilee and a band of mutant misfits in the new Xavier Institute. What could go wrong? EVERYTHING!
Issue #85!

JEAN GREY:

By Dennis Hopeless and Victor Ibáñez. She's the leader of X-MEN BLUE, but what does she do in her spare time? What would you do if you had a premonition of the Phoenix Force returning?
Issue #9 on sale now!

CABLE:

By Ed Brisson and Jon Malin. A new villain is traveling through time to assemble a doomsday weapon. Cable's most dangerous mission ever!
Issue #151 on now!

ICEMAN:

By Sina Grace and Robert Gill. The coolest hero on the planet, Bobby Drake the elder, in super-hero solo adventures.
Issue #8!

OLD MAN LOGAN:

By Ed Brisson and Mike Deodato Jr. Who is the Scarlet Samurai?!
Issue #31 on sale now!

ASTONISHING X-MEN:

By Charles Soule and a murderers' row of chart-topping and up-and-coming artists. Fan-favorite characters battle one of the X-Men's most dangerous foes!
Issue #6!

Make sure to let us know your thoughts. You can email us at officex@marvel.com (add "OKAY TO PRINT" in the subject line). And don't forget about #XMENMONDAY on Twitter, where I'll post some tidbit from one or more of the books and address your questions. I can't guarantee an answer for everybody, but I'll do my darndest!

Mark Paniccia
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X-MEN GOLD

X-MEN GOLD #18 IN TWO WEEKS

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
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ICEMAN #8
ON SALE NOW

CABLE #152
NEXT WEEK

GENERATION X #85
IN TWO WEEKS

ZONE